From: Marya Axner
To: Richard Willette
Subject: We punch above our weight class!
Date: Tuesday, November 27, 2018 7:06:00 AM

Dear Rick ,

Tomorrow is Giving Tuesday. For a small organization, we are tough. Yes, we punch above our weight class. So, your contribution will have an impact. I'm writing to ask for your support for the work of JLC New England in standing up for the working people of our community. In these troubled times our work is more important than ever.

Here's some of what we have done in the past year, with your help:

- We supported Unite Here Local 26 Marriott hotel workers as they fought for-and won-a contract that will insure them a livable wage, secure hours, good benefits and parental leave. Only one week ago, after six weeks of striking, the hotel workers ratified an excellent contract. We joined the workers on their picket lines and worked to inform the Jewish community about the strike and successfully persuaded Jewish organizations to not to cross picket lines.
- We supported Brandeis graduate students in their fight to win a first union contract, to attain significant raises and payments for teaching supplies, to offer input on student learning, and to gain access to professional development opportunities.
- We supported SEIU Local 509 members at CLASS Inc. in their successful fight for a contract with higher wages which will address the high turnover and improve the care of people with disabilities.
- We are supporting the gas workers of United Steel Workers Local 12003 and 12012 who have been locked out of their jobs by National Grid since June

25th and who have had their health care suspended. We successfully advocated for the cities of Cambridge and Somerville to pass resolutions to stop all non-emergency work with National Grid until the lock-out is over.

- We collected signatures for ballot measures on a raise in the minimum wage and the establishment of paid family leave. These signature campaigns served as a pressure point that persuaded the Massachusetts legislature to enact legislation to raise the minimum wage to $15 per hour over five years and for getting the Paid Family and Medical Leave act passed in advance of the election.

  We are currently working with Raise Up to help choose new coalition priorities that will address economic inequality and workers' rights.

- We continued the task of educating employers of domestic workers about the protections in the Massachusetts Domestic Workers Bill of Rights and what they should do to comply with the law.

- We organized rabbis to speak at protests against the detaining of law-abiding immigrants and we have spoken out for the continuation of the Temporary Protected Status of Haitians and Central Americans.

It will help our work greatly and mean a lot to us if you would mark Giving Tuesday by making a donation to JLC New England. There is so much more that needs to be done.

JLC New England is an effective organization and we use our resources judiciously. We run on a modest budget, and much of our vital work is carried out by dedicated volunteers such as yourself. Your contribution will have a big impact.

We thank you in advance for your continued support.

Marya Axner
Regional Director, JLC New England

Join us by becoming a JLC member here.

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